

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

LADARION HUGHES, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

V.

SMITH COUNTY, TEXAS,

Defendant.

Case No. 6:23-cv-344-JDK

AMENDED INITIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Before the Court is the parties' joint motion to extend certain discovery deadlines in this case. Docket No. 24. The Court **GRANTS** the motion.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) and the Eastern District of Texas Local Rules (except as modified herein), the Court, having considered the status report submitted by the parties, finds that the following schedule should govern the disposition of this case:

March 3, 2025	<p>Dispositive Motions due from all parties.</p> <p>Motions shall comply with Local Rule CV-56 and Local Rule CV-7. Motions to extend page limits will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.</p>
November 20, 2024	<p>Oral Fact Discovery Deadline</p> <p>All oral fact discovery shall be completed by this date.</p>
October 24, 2024	Plaintiff's class certification motion due.
September 24, 2024	Expert Discovery Deadline.
September 24, 2024	<p>Expert Discovery Deadline</p> <p>All expert discovery shall be completed by this date.</p>

September 20, 2024	<p>Written Fact Discovery Deadline</p> <p>All written fact discovery shall be completed by this date.</p>
30 days after any Rule 26(a)(2) disclosure	<p>Parties may provide further expert disclosure of expert testimony or evidence intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party under Rule 26(a)(2)(B) within 30 days of the disclosure contradicted or rebutted.</p>
August 24, 2024	<p>Party without the burden of proof on an issue shall file a written designation of the name and address of each expert witness, if any, who will testify at trial for that party and shall otherwise comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) and Local Rule CV-26(b).</p>
July 24, 2024	<p>Party with the burden of proof on an issue shall file a written designation of the name and address of each expert witness, if any, who will testify at trial for that party and shall otherwise comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) and Local Rule CV-26(b).</p>
January 24, 2024	<p>Deadline for Motions for Leave to Join Parties or Amend Pleadings.</p> <p>Parties may petition the Court to modify this deadline for good cause.</p>
November 14, 2023	<p>File Notice of Mediator</p> <p>The parties may jointly file a notice that identifies an agreed upon mediator (with a proposed order appointing the mediator) or indicates that no agreement was reached. If the parties do not reach an agreement, the Court will appoint a mediator. The parties should confirm the mediator's availability and schedule mediation before the deadline.</p>

If any of these dates fall on a weekend or Court holiday, the deadline is modified to be the next Court business day. Also note that all deadlines in this order are for **filing** or **delivery**, **not mailing** dates.

Unless otherwise ordered or specified herein, all limitations and requirements of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the local rules of this Court must be observed.

I. MODIFICATION OF SCHEDULING ORDER

As addressed above, this Order shall control the disposition of this case unless it is modified by the Court upon a showing of **good cause** and by leave of court. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4). Any request that the trial date of this case be modified must be made (a) **in writing** to the Court, (b) **before** the deadline for completion of discovery.

II. DISCOVERY DISPUTES

Before filing a motion to compel, a motion to quash, or a motion for protection from discovery, lead counsel for each party must confer in good faith concerning the disputes. If the dispute is not resolved by conferring in good faith, then a party may file an appropriate motion. Any such motion should include a certification by counsel describing the steps taken to comply with this paragraph.

III. ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY

In cases involving disputes over extensive electronic discovery, counsel for both sides shall review the court's [Model] Order Regarding E-Discovery in Patent Cases before contacting the Hotline or filing motions to compel or to quash. The order can be modified for use in any case in which electronic discovery is an issue, and any ruling of the court on conduct of electronic discovery will likely be based, at least in part, on that model order. See ED Texas Website under Quick Links / Forms / Patent Forms / Order Regarding E-Discovery in Patent Cases.

IV. RESOURCES

The Eastern District of Texas website (www.txed.uscourts.gov) contains information about electronic filing, which is mandatory, Local Rules, telephone numbers, general orders, frequently requested cases, the Eastern District fee schedule, and other information.

V. COMPLIANCE


A party is not excused from the requirements of this scheduling order by virtue of the fact that dispositive motions are pending, the party has not completed its investigation, the party challenges the sufficiency of the opposing party's disclosure, or because another party has failed to comply with this Order or the rules.

Failure to comply with relevant provisions of the Local Rules, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or this Order may result in the exclusion of evidence at trial, the imposition of sanctions by the court, or both. If a fellow member of the Bar makes a just request for cooperation or seeks scheduling accommodation, a lawyer will not arbitrarily or unreasonably withhold consent. However, the court is not bound to accept agreements of counsel to extend deadlines imposed by rule or court order. See Local Rule AT-3(j).

VI. INQUIRIES

Questions relating to this scheduling order or legal matters should be presented in a motion, as appropriate. For questions regarding electronic notice or electronic case files, please see the ECF FAQs on the Eastern District of Texas website.

So **ORDERED** and **SIGNED** this **2nd** day of **August, 2024**.



JEREMY D. KERNODLE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE